



2021

Dear Prospective Neighbor:

We appreciate your interest in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) national security facility. This letter provides you with some basic information about the Laboratory, as well as resources that will help you learn more about the environmental relationship between LLNL and the local community.

LLNL is located on approximately one square mile of land on the eastern edge of the City of Livermore. In the early 1940s, the site was home to a U.S. Naval Air Station. In 1952, the Laboratory was founded, first under the auspices of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, and later DOE. It is currently managed by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (<http://www.llnslc.com>) for DOE/NNSA and employs approximately 8,000 personnel. Additional information about the early days of the Laboratory can be found here: <https://www.llnl.gov/about/history>.

In the early 1980s, groundwater contamination was first detected in off-site wells near the Livermore site. The contamination, principally volatile organic compounds (VOCs), was attributed primarily to cleaning solvents used on airplane engines when the property was occupied by the U.S. Navy during World War II. Subsequent soil and groundwater contamination in and around the site is the result of localized spills, leaking tanks and other materials after the Laboratory began operations. For the past several decades, LLNL has been working to clean up this legacy contamination and has done so under the oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board.

While most of this work is focused on cleaning up on-site contamination, it also has involved the extensive pumping of off-site groundwater back to the Livermore site for treatment to remove the VOCs. LLNL operates a number of wells in the area for this purpose and has made significant progress in treating these substances. It is anticipated that the cleanup of remaining off-site contamination will be accomplished within the next few years. On-site cleanup will take significantly longer. Please be assured, however, that as this activity continues there is no health risk to the community from the presence of these contaminants.

If you would like to learn more about the Laboratory's environmental remediation activities, please see the LLNL website: <https://enviroinfo.llnl.gov>. It features a link to the *Site Annual Environmental Report*, environmental compliance documents and various other environment-related subjects. Additionally, hard copies of some current LLNL environmental reports and documents are available in a document repository at the Livermore public library.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please contact me at (925) 423-3125 or via e-mail at wilson101@llnl.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilson
Public Affairs Office
LLNL

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